

September 20, 1990

Letter<sup>7</sup> to the Editor  
Los Angeles Times  
Times Mirror Square,  
Los Angeles, CA 90053

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Russell Chandler's Column One story on married Roman Catholic priests is a telling example of how out of step the Church remains to be, even thirty years after Vatican II.

The sexual revolution has come and gone and the Church has yet to face the possibility that it's okay for its ministers to marry.

In his book Essential Catholicism, Catholic theologian Thomas Bokenkotter pointed out that when a second synod was convened in the early '70s to consider celibacy no consideration was given to the Protestant experience with married ministers and no Protestant ministers were invited to give testimony on the subject. Bokenkotter writes, "One thing was soon clear: the majority of the bishops were determined to uphold the traditional discipline."

The current papal administration, being well founded in the pre-Vatican traditions, is not likely to have any more of an open mind on the subject.

Granted, a married priesthood is most likely not going to drastically reverse the shrinking size of the Catholic clergy. Nonetheless I agree with Philip McGovern, a married priest cited in your article, "The people are ready for a married priesthood."

The current world is not interested in the dictatorial pronouncements of wise, if not cloistered, men. But give me a minister who has a heart for the people because he is a part of the people, on a daily "who took out the trash last" basis, then I might consider his opinion on life.

It's unfortunate that more ministers, Catholic and Protestant, have not experienced or admitted to the revelation expressed in your article by former Maryknoll missionary Joseph Buko. Buko was correct when he said, "Women teach us about intimacy---the opposite of clerical control and power."

A former Catholic,

Will write Joseph  
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Joe Bustillos  
September 13, 1990  
Editorial Paragraphs assignment 1

1) Whoever said that micro-computers increase productivity  
never worked with MS-DOS.

2) While it is debatable whether Missouri is really the "show  
me" state, Florida legislators are bent on making their state the  
"don't show me" state with regards to the thong bikini issue.

Joe Bustillos  
November 8, 1990  
Editorial Paragraphs assignment 3

1) It is easier to understand someones point of view by peering over his shoulder than by standing on his toes

2) Political elections and the coming of Autumn have something in common in Southern California. While the calendar says that they have come and gone, the countryside remains virtually unchanged.

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